

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 1675

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SP, NATO, BE

SUBJ: DISCUSSION WITH SPANISH OFFICIALS ON NATO MATTERS

REF: (A) MADRID 1846; (B) USNATO 1519; (C) MADRID 2011

1. USNATO POLAD (PEREZ) EHLD BREAKFAST MEETING WITH AGUIRRE DE CARCER ON SATURDAY, MARCH 21, PER REF B. DUE TO PRESS OF BUSINESS AT USNATO, THE MEETING WAS RELATIVELY BRIEF (NOTE: AMBASSADOR DE LOS ARCOS ONLY JOINED DISCUSSION NEAR END).

2. AGUIRRE SAID THAT THE SPANISH FOREIGN MINISTRY WAS PAYING PERIODIC VISITS TO VARIOUS EUROPEAN CAPITALS FOR DISCUSSIONS ON MUTUAL BILATERAL PROBLEMS. SINCE SPAIN HOPED TO JOIN THE EC AT SOME POINT, THE SPANISH GOVERNMENT WAS INTERESTED IN KEEPING ITS POLICIES--TO THE EXTENT POSSIBLE--IN LINE WITH THE EC-9 COUNTRIES TO FACILITATE EVENTUAL SPANISH MEMBERSHIP. HE THOUGHT THAT RECENT DISCUSSIONS WITH EUROPEAN GOVERNMENTS, INCLUDING VISIT TO BELGIAN FOREIGN MINISTRY, HAD BEEN PRODUCTIVE IN THIS RESPECT.

3. THERE WAS EVIDENTLY NO DIRECT DISCUSSION OF SECURITY MATTERS WITH THE BELGIAN FOREIGN MINISTRY. AGUIRRE DID MENTION, HOWEVER, THAT THERE HAD BEEN SOME DISCUSSION OF THE GREEK SITUATION RELATIVE TO NATO. AGUIRRE EVIDENTLY WAS INTERESTED IN HOW THE GREEKS ARE CONFIDENTIAL

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RENEGOTIATING THEIR MILITARY STATUS WITH NATO AND THE U.S. AND

QUERIED PEREZ ON THIS MATTER. PEREZ RESPONDED THAT THE U.S. AND GREECE HAD HELD INITIAL DISCUSSIONS IN MARCH BUT THAT NEGOTIATIONS

AS SUCH HAD NOT YET TAKEN PLACE; ALSO THAT GREEK/NATO NEGOTIATIONS AS SUCH HAD NOT BEGUN EITHER. IN THE CASE OF THE U.S./GREEK RELATION, IT WAS FIRST NECESSARY TO IDENTIFY THOSE BILATERAL ARRANGEMENTS WHICH MIGHT REQUIRE RENEGOTIATION. PEREZ FURTHER NOTED THAT U.S./GREEK/NATO RELATIONS ARE CLOSELY LINKED, PARTICULARLY SINCE SOME BASES IN GREECE ARE JOINT US/NATO FACILITIES. IT APPEARED THAT AGUIRRE WAS INTERESTED TO LEARN AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE FROM THE GREEK MODEL WHICH COULD A) GUIDE THE GOVERNMENT OF SPAIN IN ITS CURRENT BASE RENEGOTIATIONS WITH THE US AND B) PROVIDE RATIONALE AS TO HOW US MILITARY BASES IN SPAIN MIGHT BE LINKED WITH EVENTUAL SPANISH MEMBERSHIP OR AFFILIATION WITH NATO.

4. WHEN QUERIED, AGUIRRE SAID HE DETECTED NO SOFTENING IN THE EUROPEAN ATTITUDE ON POSSIBLE SPANISH ENTRY INTO NATO. PEREZ SAID THAT, LIKEWISE, HE HAD SEEN NO EVIDENCE OF CHANGE IN THE EUROPEAN ATTITUDE. AGUIRRE EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR OUR SUPPORT

OF SPANISH ENTRY, BUT AT THE SAME TIME RECOGNIZED THE INTRANSIGENCE OF OUR ALLIES ON THIS ISSUE.

5. AGUIRRE ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THERE WAS CONCERN WITH THE SPANISH GOVERNMENT OVER THE SITUATION IN PORTUGAL. HE SAID, HOWEVER, THAT IT SHOULD BE POSSIBLE TO MAINTAIN RELATIONS WITH PORTUGAL WHICH--WHILE NOT FRIENDLY--WOULD BE PROPER. ONE OF THEIR MAIN CONCERNS WAS THE LONG JOINT BORDER BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES WHICH CREATED THE POSSIBILITY FOR SUBVERSIVE ACTIVITY.

6. PEREZ REGRETTED THE SHORT VISIT WITH AMBASSADOR DE LOS ARCOS AND AGUIRRE BUT INVITED THEM TO FURTHER DISCUSSIONS ON NATO SHOULD THEY RETURN TO BRUSSELS. IN RESPONSE TO A QUERY, HE INDICATED WILLINGNESS TO HOLD INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS FROM TIME TO TIME WITH APPROPRIATE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE SPANISH EMBASSY IN BRUXXES. BRUCE

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